

RONDEAU et al. – Appln. No. 09/922,237

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A fender structure for a vehicle with a plurality of wheels, comprising:

a right fender portion positionable over a right wheel;

a left fender portion associated with the right fender portion and positionable over a left wheel, wherein at least one of the right fender portion and the left fender portion includes a support portion designed as a load-bearing surface that is defined at least in part by a top surface of at least one of the left and right fender portions;

a storage compartment formed in the support portion with an opening through which items may be placed into the storage compartment;

a cover positionable over the opening; and

raised support portions, in at least one of a lateral, longitudinal, and diagonal direction, formed in one piece with at least one of the support portion and the storage compartment, the raised support portions defining at least one raised support plane.

4. (Currently Amended) A fender structure for a vehicle with a plurality of wheels, comprising:

a right fender portion positionable over a right wheel;

a left fender portion associated with the right fender portion and positionable over a left wheel, wherein at least one of the right fender portion and the left fender portion includes

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a support portion designed as a load-bearing surface that is defined at least in part by a top surface of at least one of the left and right fender portions; and

raised support portions, in at least one of a lateral, longitudinal, and diagonal direction, formed in one piece with the support portion, the raised support portions defining at least one raised support plane.

5. (Previously Presented) The fender structure of claim 4, wherein:
the right fender portion, the left fender portion and the support portion are formed in one piece with one another as a single unit.

6. (Original) The fender structure of claim 5, wherein the single unit is formed by one of blow-molding and injection molding.

7. (Original) The fender structure of claim 5, wherein the single unit is made of at least one of polyethylene, polypropylene, and fiberglass-reinforced polyethylene.

8. (Previously Presented) The fender structure of claim 4, further comprising:
a mud guard positionable adjacent at least one of the left and right wheels; and
a floor board extending away from the at least one mud guard.

9. (Original) The fender structure of claim 8, wherein the mud guard and the floor board are formed as a one piece unit.

10. (Original) The fender structure of claim 8, wherein at least one of the mud guard and the floor board is made of injection molded plastic.

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11. (Original) The fender structure of claim 8, wherein the at least one mud guard and the floor board are formed in one piece with the right fender portion, the left fender portion and the support portion.

12. (Original) The fender structure of claim 8, wherein the at least one mud guard and the floor board are formed of injection molded plastic, and the right fender portion, the left fender portion and the support portion are formed of blow-molded plastic.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A vehicle with a plurality of wheels, comprising:
a right fender portion positionable over a right wheel;
a left fender portion associated with the right fender portion and positionable over a left wheel, wherein at least one of the right fender portion and the left fender portion includes a support portion designed as a load-bearing surface that is defined at least in part by a top surface of at least one of the left and right fender portions;

a storage compartment formed in the support portion with an opening through which items may be placed into the storage compartment;

a cover positionable over the opening; and

raised support portions, in at least one of a lateral, longitudinal, and diagonal direction, formed in one piece with at least one of the support portion and the storage compartment, the raised support portions defining at least one raised support plane.

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16. (Currently Amended) A vehicle with a plurality of wheels, comprising:
a right fender portion positionable over a right wheel;
a left fender portion associated with the right fender portion and positionable over a left wheel, wherein at least one of the right fender portion and the left fender portion includes a support portion designed as a load-bearing surface that is defined at least in part by a top surface of at least one of the left and right fender portions; and
raised support portions, in at least one of a lateral, longitudinal, and diagonal direction, formed in one piece with the support portion, the raised support portions defining at least one raised support plane.

17. (Previously Presented) The vehicle of claim 16, wherein:
the right fender portion, the left fender portion and the support portion are formed in one piece with one another as a single unit.

18. (Original) The vehicle of claim 17, wherein the single unit is formed by one of blow-molding and injection molding.

19. (Original) The vehicle of claim 17, wherein the single unit is made of at least one of polyethylene, polypropylene, and fiberglass-reinforced polyethylene.

20. (Previously Presented) The vehicle of claim 16, further comprising:
a mud guard positionable adjacent at least one of the left and right wheels; and
a floor board extending away from the mud guard.

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21. (Original) The vehicle of claim 20, wherein the mud guard and the floor board are formed as a one-piece unit.

22. (Original) The vehicles of claim 20, wherein at least one of the mud guard and the floor board is made of injection molded plastic.

23. (Original) The vehicle of claim 20, wherein the at least one mud guard and the floor board are formed in one piece with the right fender portion, the left fender portion and the support portion.

24. (Original) The vehicle of claim 20, wherein the at least one mud guard and the floor board are formed of injection molded plastic, and the right fender portion, the left fender portion and the support portion are formed of one of blow-molded and injection molded plastic.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) An all terrain vehicle including a plurality of wheels, the vehicle comprising:

a fender structure positioned over the wheels, the fender structure including a plurality of raised support portions defining at least one raised support plane, wherein the raised support portions and the fender structure are formed of a plastic material;

a main frame from which the wheels are suspended; and

a bumper supported by the main frame,

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wherein the raised support portions are supported by the main frame and are not supported by the bumper.

27. (Previously Presented) The all terrain vehicle of claim 26, wherein the plastic material is selected from the group comprising polyethylene, polypropylene and fiberglass-charged polyethylene.

28. (Previously Presented) The all terrain vehicle of claim 26, wherein the fender structure and the raised support portions are formed as a one piece unit.

29. (Previously Presented) The all terrain vehicle of claim 26, further comprising a storage compartment formed in one piece with the fender structure and the raised support portions.

30. (Original) The all terrain vehicle of claim 29, further comprising a cover that is sized to cover the storage compartment.

31. (Original) The all terrain vehicle of claim 30, wherein the fender structure includes a central support surface defined by the cover and a lateral support surface on each side of the central support surface.

32. (Original) The all terrain vehicle of claim 29, wherein the fender structure includes lateral portions on each side of the storage compartment.

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33. (Original) The all terrain vehicle of claim 32, wherein the fender structure includes at least one cross-over portion extending transverse to the lateral portions, the lateral portions and the at least one cross-over portion defining a support plane.

34. (Previously Presented) The all terrain vehicle of claim 26, wherein the fender structure comprises lateral portions and at least one cross-over portion extending transverse to the lateral portions, the lateral portions and the at least one cross-over portion defining a support plane.

35. (Previously Presented) The all terrain vehicle according to claim 26, wherein the fender structure is a rear end portion of the all terrain vehicle.

36. (Previously Presented) The all terrain vehicle according to claim 26, wherein the fender structure is a front end portion of the all terrain vehicle.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) An all terrain vehicle comprising:
a main frame that suspends a plurality of wheels;
a fender structure supported by the main frame, the fender structure having a plurality of built-in raised support portions defining at least one raised support plane;
a storage compartment positioned within the fender structure; and
a cover sized to cover the storage compartment,

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wherein the fender structure includes a central support surface defined by the cover and a lateral support surface on each side of the central support surface.

40. (Previously Presented) The all terrain vehicle of claim 39, wherein the fender structure and the plurality of built-in raised support portions are made of plastic selected from the group comprising polyethylene, polypropylene and fiberglass-charged polyethylene.

41. (Previously Presented) The all terrain vehicle of claim 39, wherein the fender structure and the built-in raised support portions are formed as a one piece unit.

42. (Previously Presented) The all terrain vehicle of claim 39, further comprising a mud guard and a floor board formed in one piece with the fender structure.

43. (Original) The all terrain vehicle of claim 42, wherein the fender structure, the mud guard and the floor board are formed as a single unit.

44. (Original) The all terrain vehicle of claim 42, wherein the mud guard and the floor board are formed as at first one piece unit and the fender structure and the built-in raised support portions are formed as a second one piece unit.

45. (Original) The all terrain vehicle of claim 44, wherein the first one piece unit is made from an injection molded plastic and the second one piece unit is made of a blow-molded plastic.

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46. (Previously Presented) The all terrain vehicle of claim 39, wherein the fender structure is a front end portion of the all terrain vehicle.

47. (Previously Presented) The all terrain vehicle of claim 39, wherein the fender structure is a rear end portion of the all terrain vehicle.